

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

June 1, 1925.

*
* This sheet is run for the benefit of both the *
* majority and the minority, we, the editors represent- *
* ing the minority. The majority sometimes read what *
* we the minority are able to put into it with the kind *
* help of the minority of the majority. If the majority *
* of the majority were to contribute, the sheet would be *
* enlarged and the minority would have less to say. *
*
* Some very excellent plans of extension work in *
* horticultura are coming to us for reading and comment. *
* A few of these are so good that we are inclined to pub- *
* lish extracts from them in future numbers of the Horti- *
* culturist. *
*

The material contained herein is not for publication
except by permission from the Office of Horticultural
Investigations.

Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

These Figures Speak for Themselves.

We like to see figures in the annual reports so as to realize the amount of work being done in a state. This page is taken from the 1924 report of Mr. A. F. Mason of New Jersey and shows the aims, or goals, and the actual number of demonstrations accomplished.

	Aims	Completed or under w
1. PRUNING		
a. General Pruning Demonstrations	78	69
b. Continued Apple Pruning Demonstrations	14	14
c. Continued Peach Pruning Demonstrations	13	10
d. Continued Grape Pruning Demonstrations	16	12
2. SPRAYING		
a. Apple Spraying Demonstrations	19	13
b. Peach Spraying Demonstrations	5	3
c. Peach Dusting Demonstrations	2	2
d. Grape Spraying Demonstrations	5	2
e. Dusting Home Fruit Garden	3	2
f. Home Mixing of Dry-Mix Sulfur Lime	4	4
g. Special Insect and Disease Control Work		
1. Codling Moth Observation Cages	17	11
2. Spray Card Service	13,882	13,882
To Apple Growers	6,085	
To Peach Growers	4,710	
To Cherry Growers	1,662	
To Grape Growers	1,425	
3. Paradichlorobenzene Service Cards		
To Peach Growers	4,710	4,710
3. DEMONSTRATION APPLE ORCHARDS	15	13
4. ORCHARD CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS		
a. Apple Thinning Demonstrations	6	5
b. Peach Thinning Demonstrations	7	8
c. Peach Picking Demonstration	1	0
d. Soil Improvement Demonstration	1	1
e. Height of Heading Apple Trees Demonstration	1	1
5. SMALL FRUIT DEMONSTRATIONS		
a. Grape Pruning Demonstrations (Listed under pruning)	16	12
b. Grape Spraying Demonstrations (Listed under spraying)	5	2
c. Grape Fertilization Demonstrations	4	2
d. Strawberry Cultivation Demonstration	1	0
e. Raspberry Variety Demonstrations	2	4
6. ORGANIZATION		
a. Counties with Fruit Project Committee	17	17
b. Counties holding fruit Project Committee Meetings	13	11
c. Fruit Growers' Associations	6	3
d. Fruit Growers' School	1	1
e. Auto Tours	7	4

The Eastern Shore Trip to Maryland and Virginia
By W. R. Beattie.

During the week beginning May 18th, the writer had the pleasure of making a trip in company with Prof. Ballard of the University of Maryland to points on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the peninsula of Virginia. To those of the horticulturists who have not had the pleasure of visiting the Eastern Shore territory, words will fail to give a true conception of this wonderful country.

Beginning at Easton, which is almost directly east and across the bay from Annapolis, and traveling through Hurlock, Cambridge, Salisbury, and Berlin, one is in the midst of a most intensified type of farming, including a considerable percentage of potatoes, tomatoes, peas for the canneries, strawberries, dewberries, grapes, muskmelons and tree fruits. The country is of a slightly rolling nature and varies in soil types from the lightest sandy loam to medium clay loams. The country is traversed by numerous deep-channel streams and salt water inlets, providing excellent transportation and greatly modifying the climate. With the county agents in this territory the truck crops form an important part of the demonstration work. In many sections the production of early tomatoes and asparagus is just being started and the farmers have much to learn relative to the culture of these crops. In the strawberry sections problems of field management, fertilizers, and carrying qualities are involved. State inspection under the direction of the State Department of Markets of Maryland has recently been started and is giving good results.

Crossing the line into Virginia, a day was spent in company with Mr. Ralston, who was formerly extension horticulturist at Blacksburg, Virginia, and who is now Manager of the Department of Standards of the Eastern Shore Produce Exchange, Mr. Zimmerley of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station at Norfolk and Mr. Strong the County Agent of Accomac County.

Early potatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbage, strawberries, and recently onions, are the important vegetable crops of this county and it is needless to say that the growers have their problems. Mr. Strong has a number of very outstanding potato demonstrations, showing the differences due to sources of seed. These differences were also very apparent in the demonstrations being carried on by the county agents in the adjoining counties of Maryland. During my visit a cooperative arrangement was made between the county agents of these counties in Maryland and Mr. Strong of Accomac County, Virginia, for a joint potato tour to be held about the 17th and 18th of June. This tour will begin in Accomac County and extend over into at least two counties of Maryland.

The Virginia Truck Experiment Station maintains a branch station near Onley, Virginia, where is also located the headquarters of the Eastern Shore Produce Exchange. What struck the writer most forcibly was the extreme spirit of cooperation that exists between all parties connected with the vegetable work of the Eastern Shore territory. Here we have the Exchange, which is a business organization, working hand in hand

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

with the county agents and the Virginia Truck Experiment Station. This influence extends well over into Maryland as evidenced by the present plan to hold a joint potato tour. It is suggested that we have more of these cooperative relationships between the workers of different states, especially where the problem like the seed potato problem of the Eastern Shore section is one in which both states are mutually interested. The nearer we can get the cooperative extension work on a commodity basis, regardless of state boundaries, the greater will be the results.

Mr. Ballard and the writer made the return trip through Delaware where the vineyards, potato fields, and the orchards are kept in such splendid condition. The trip was made by automobile, considerable of the mileage being on roads off the main line of travel, one of these side trips including a visit to the branch Experiment Station located at Ridgely, Maryland, where some interesting experimental work in soil fertility and crop rotation problems are being conducted. We can conceive of no greater treat for a horticulturist than a trip through the peninsular section commonly known as the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia.

Standardizing Vegetable Seeds.

On Thursday, May 28, a conference was held in the Office of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce in Washington, which was attended by representatives of the American Seed Trade Association, the American Cannery Association, the Vegetable Growers Association of America, officials of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and others, the purpose of this conference being to discuss ways and means of simplifying trade names and practices in the commercial production and handling of vegetable seeds.

Among the points brought out during the conference was the fact that one seedsman now lists less than 100 varieties, another of the larger seed houses lists less than 400 varieties, and its representative believes that this number could be greatly reduced to the mutual advantage of everybody. It was also stated that there are perhaps a little over 1,000 actual varieties of vegetables, whereas, according to the records of this office, over 14,000 so called varieties are catalogued by American seedsmen.

The consensus of opinion of those attending the conference was that, first, there was need for a survey to determine the most important varieties of vegetables being grown in the several states. This, we have partially completed as a result of the inquiry we sent to the state specialists a few months ago, but it will be necessary to have these reports revised and others added. The second point was that it will be necessary to establish standard variety descriptions for the leading varieties of vegetables, as determined by the survey. Third, it would be necessary to establish a list of approved varieties based upon the survey and the standard variety descriptions. Considerable discussion followed relative to the listing of synonyms, but it was conceded that without further trials and variety studies, it would be impossible to go very far in the matter of listing synonyms for the present.

The conference adjourned to meet again sometime in October at the call of Mr. Hudson, Chief of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce. It was the understanding that steps would be taken in the meantime to make the necessary survey and to work out a limited number of standard variety descriptions to be used as a basis for further recommendations when the conference again convenes in October.

We will appreciate if the vegetable specialists and those engaged in the vegetable work of the colleges will bear this matter in mind, as a new set of survey blanks will be prepared and sent out in the near future. A number of the states made a pretty thorough canvass of the situation following our former request and will be in position to furnish the information without any special effort. In other states, it will be necessary to make more or less of a survey to determine just what are the most important varieties of vegetables being planted.

- - - - -

The following interesting letter dated May 8, was received from Prof. E. V. Hardenburg of the Department of Vegetable Gardening of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York:

"Thank you for placing my name on your mailing list for the "Extension Horticulturist." To comply with your request for a short article relative to some phase of our work, I submit the following:

Inspection and certification service for growers of seed beans was first undertaken in New York State last year. The New York Seed Improvement Cooperative Association adopted a certification standard formulated by the Department of Vegetable Gardening for this purpose. Five growers availed themselves of the inspection service on ten fields. In order to encourage production of the Michigan Robust Pea bean and the Wells' strain of Red Kidney, the inspection service was limited to those varieties. It is expected that the demand for bean inspection will be considerably greater in 1925. The production of Wells' Red Kidney is increasing rapidly in New York, judging from the frequent inquiries for seed of this variety. The principal obstacle in certification last year was the factor of discolored seed due partly to bacterial blight and partly to weathering.

The final hearing of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture on the promulgation of U. S. grades for dry beans was held at Hotel Powers, Rochester, New York, on April 27. About sixty growers and dealers were present to take part in the discussion. Mr. L. S. Tenny of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presided while Mr. W. A. Wheeler and Mr. J. E. Barr of the Department of Agriculture were present to explain the grades. Most of the discussion centered around the question of factors affecting the cost and complexity of determining and removing the "pick," the dealers maintaining that the new grades would react against the grower by increasing the cost of picking. There seemed to be some fear also that the new grades might add to the complexity of an already difficult situation. From some experience in handling the inspection work with seed beans, the writer believes that the provisions of the proposed grades regarding damaged and discolored beans would relieve rather than aggravate the question of picking. As indicated by the enclosed copy of present New York State bean grades, choice hand picked pea beans shall not contain over $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of discolored seed. Such

a provision strictly adhered to would be very difficult to meet in a year of blight epidemic like 1924. The proposed Federal bean grades are more definite in that U. S. No. 1 pea beans would contain not over $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of beans so badly discolored as to appear damaged. In spite of considerable discussion and attempts to clarify the meaning and application of the proposed grades, the vote was almost unanimous in opposition. This is reported to have been similar to action taken by those attending the hearings in California and Michigan, the other leading dry bean states. The unfavorable attitude in all cases may be explained partly by the fact that the bean interests in each state are fearful that the adoption of U. S. grades might tend to submerge the existing high standards at present in use."

- - - - -

Frost and Hail Insurance.

Insurance against loss to growers from both frost and hail is being sold in certain sections of the United States and we would like to know to what extent this form of protection against loss from spring frost and from hail storms is being employed by the orchardists and vegetable gardeners in the various states.

The farmers of Kansas and other of the midwestern states have for many years taken out policies insuring against loss to certain crops from hail storms. Please tell us in a brief letter to what extent this practice is followed in your state.

- - - - -

Office Visitors.

On May 4, Prof. H. W. Harvey, Landscape Specialist in Georgia, made a short call at the office. He was on his way to New York City to help install an exhibit of agricultural products of Georgia made by the Southern Agricultural Society.

Prof. C. L. Long, Horticultural Specialist of Oregon, visited several of the officials in Cooperative Extension Work and Agricultural Economics on May 20 and 21. He was interested in getting information and statistics on fruit production and shipments over a long period of years throughout the country as they relate to western fruit growing. He reports fruit crop prospects good in Oregon, except that the Loganberry crop will be light.

Prof. J. C. Blair, Head of the Department of Horticulture of the University of Illinois, made a very brief visit here on May 21, to discuss extension horticultural work in Illinois. He reported that Dr. M. J. Dorsey of West Virginia will join the teaching staff in his department on September 1. Prof. W. S. Brock, now Extension Horticulturist, will be transferred to the teaching staff on September 1. A successor to Prof. Brock in the extension work has not yet been appointed.

Prof. T. C. Johnson, Director of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station at Norfolk, Va., was a caller at this office on May 20 and 21, attending the conference on simplified practice in the handling and sale of vegetable seeds at the Department of Commerce on May 21.

